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this borrowing Dr. King does not fix definitely, herein showing praiseworthy caution, but makes the beginning of the process contemporary with the Hebrew entrance into Canaan. The Creation myth and the Flood myth go back to ancient Sumerian originals which arose in Babylonia, the Flood story in particular resting upon a probable basis of fact, at least so far as conditions in the Euphrates Valley would occasion such a tale.

Dr. King definitely pronounces against the astrological explanations of these things so confidently propounded by German scholarship. He likewise expresses his judgment as unfavorable to the claim recently put forth by Dr. Langdon to the discovery of another new Deluge story in the Nippur tablets. Thus Sayce, Prince, Jastrow, Peters, Barton, and King all deny the Deluge character of the tablet in question, and Dr. Langdon is now said to agree with them. The same sort of confidence cannot be placed in Dr. King's refusal to make the Mosaic Law dependent at all upon the Code of Hammurabi. The points of contact between the latter and the Covenant Code are so numerous and so definite that it seems hardly possible to escape the hypothesis of dependence. These similarities are far less satisfactorily accounted for on the basis of the general likeness of all Semitic social institutions and practices. C. H. W. Johns, in a previous series of Schweich Lectures dealing with *The Relations between the Laws of Babylonia and the Laws of the Hebrew Peoples* (1914), has made it practically certain that the Hebrew lawmakers were familiar with Hammurabi's legislation and made use of it.

We lay down this series of lectures realizing that we shall come back to it again and again for the information which it so lavishly offers, and we are grateful that it keeps the Schweich Lectures upon that high level of scholarly popularization which characterized it at the start, but has not been consistently maintained.

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A NEW ARABIC TEXTBOOK¹

This volume is one of the best, if not the best, published for the use of missionaries, officials, and business men desiring a concise but sufficiently elaborated text, and thoroughly reliable for acquiring a

¹ *Arabic Simplified*. By 'Abdul Fady (Arthur T. Upson, superintendent of the Nile Mission Press, Cairo, Egypt). Published by the author at Cairo, Egypt. 470 pages.

knowledge of usable Arabic. It consists of two hundred lessons, to be studied as a part of a correspondence course conducted by the author and his collaborator, Rev. John C. Wilcox, M.A.

The title suggests exactly what the book is. After a clear and interesting introduction to the alphabet and diacritical signs, with emphasis upon the value of the use of the Arabic characters as compared with transliteration, the student is carried from the simplest forms of the verb and noun through 150 lessons (Parts I to VIII) carefully and lucidly explained. There is a complete avoidance of that cumbersome and distracting detail which characterizes some texts. These lessons are followed by some fifty pages of reading lessons (Parts IX and X) for drill, and setting forth the syntax of the language.

The method followed is the "interrogative," such questions being proposed from the first to the last as would naturally arise between teacher and pupil in an attempt to secure a practical knowledge of modern spoken Arabic, or that of the newspapers or not too classical literature.

The make-up of the book is such as to please the eye and not leave with the student the sense of weariness which frequently results from the use of poor paper, unsuitable type, or a complicated arrangement. The index is a valuable contribution.

The author has been for over twenty years a resident in Cairo. He is familiar with the Arabic of the Azhar University, and with that of the official, the man on the street, and the "fellah," and is recognized as an authority on the subject. The study of modern Arabic ordinarily presents what seem to be impossible difficulties for the beginner; but for a profitable and not too laborious method we most thoroughly commend this recent work of Mr. Upson's.

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HISTORY OF RELIGION STUDIES

Of this volume,¹ 245 pages are occupied by Müller's presentation of Egyptian mythology, 112 by Scott's treatment of the myths of Burma, Siam, and Annam, and the rest by notes and bibliographies. Müller presents a sketch of the Egyptian religion. In thirteen chapters he treats the following topics: the local gods; the worship of the sun;

¹ *The Mythology of All Races.* Vol. XII, *Egyptian*, by W. Max Müller; *Indo-Chinese*, by James George Scott. Boston: Marshall Jones Co., 1918. xviii+450 pages. \$6.00.